

Congress. The American people support making it more difficult for Congress to raise taxes. They ought to * * * Currently, one third of all Americans live in a State with a tax limitation in the Constitution. These citizens know first hand what a tax limitation amendment can do.

In States with a tax limitation taxes grow at a slower rate. This slower rate means that citizens in those States have a fighting chance to get ahead and to save. Economies and employment also grow at faster rates in States that have tax limitations.

Mr. Speaker, every year tax freedom day gets later and later. Currently, Americans need to work until May to pay off their yearly tax burden. Today, we have an opportunity to end this insanity. I urge my colleagues to bring accountability to Congress and freedom to the American taxpayer by passing this important tax limitation amendment to the Constitution.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 159, CONSTITUTIONAL AMEND- MENT RELATING TO TAXES

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 15, 1996

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, taxes in America are too high on working men and women and their families. Today the average American family pays 38 percent of their income in taxes to local, State, and the Federal Government. That means a family with an income of \$25,000 a year only takes home \$15,500 to spend on their families.

These high taxes not only take money away from families, they also hurt our Nation's economy and slow its growth which means fewer jobs for Americans. The Joint Economic Committee released a study that shows of the States that have raised income taxes these States lost nearly 200,000 jobs and unemployment rose by 2.3 percent. Conversely, in States that cut income taxes nearly one million new jobs were created and unemployment rose by only .3 percent.

Over the past 30 years there have been 16 major votes to increase Federal taxes on Americans. Had a super-majority requirement been in place only 8 would have become law. In the 1980's alone, had the tax limitation amendment been in place taxpayers would have saved \$666 billion. The past 30 years shows that the Federal Government can not control its addiction to taxation.

The 104th Congress is conscious of the high tax burden on Americans, just as past Congresses have not been afraid to raise taxes. I therefore support this constitutional amendment because raising taxes is too harmful to our economy, employment, and takes money away from American families. This amendment should be considered as a comparison to the balanced budget amendment and both amendments should be sent to the States for ratification.

TWIN CITIES COMMUNITY HONORS INFLUENTIAL RESIDENT

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the work of Rev. James W. Battle and to thank him for his outstanding dedication to the St. Paul/Minneapolis communities in Minnesota.

Reverend Battle is the pastor of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church in St. Paul. His activities in the community, however, go far beyond his duties as pastor. Recently, the Luther Seminary recognized him for some of those activities by giving him the Seminary's Race, Church and Change Award. This award was given to Reverend Battle to honor him for his outstanding and tireless efforts to improve cross-cultural relations within the community.

Along with organizations such as the Urban League, Chamber of Commerce, Council on Black Minnesotans, Rainbow Coalition and others, Reverend Battle has taken the lead in the efforts to address many of our community's most daunting problems. He helped organize a meeting of gang leaders from cities across the Nation, brought together to talk about problems associated with gang activity and how they could help forge peace between gangs in their communities. On the local level, he has helped unite several Twin Cities congregations, forming the St. Paul Ecumenical Alliance of Churches. This amazingly effective alliance is helping these 16 congregations coordinate their efforts to address community problems.

During the years he spent giving his time and efforts to our community, Reverend Battle has participated in many efforts to improve the lives of our most precious and vulnerable citizens, our children. They are the future of the Twin Cities, and the nation. By opening doors of opportunity for young Minnesotans in the Twin Cities, Reverend Battle has helped ensure a strong future for our community. The mentoring and guidance he has provided to so many youth will not only increase those children's chances to achieve success, it will also ensure that the next generation of Twin Cities adults feels the same commitment to their community and respect for their neighbors that Reverend Battle holds in such high regard. These lessons are some of the most valuable ones a child will learn in his or her lifetime, and Reverend Battle has served as an exceptional teacher of these lessons.

There is still much work left to be done to address and fill the needs of some Twin Cities residents. However, Reverend Battle's efforts serve as a strong foundation as he and the rest of our community continue this struggle. I join the entire Twin Cities community in thanking him for his hard work on behalf of the community and its residents, and I look to walk through Samaria and face the problems and meet the challenges of the community with a strong leader, Rev. James W. Battle.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter the following article into the RECORD. It was printed in the St. Paul Pioneer Press on April 9, 1996. It is a wonderful summary of the good work Reverend Battle has accomplished in the Twin Cities.

[From the St. Paul Pioneer Press, Apr. 9, 1996]

PASTOR HONORED FOR COMMUNITY MINISTRY
(By Pat Burson)

The Rev. James W. Battle Sr. has preached peace to gang members, repentance to sinners and colorblind community service to the clergy.

Battle, known as much for his social activism as his pastorate of Mount Olivet Baptist Church in St. Paul, has opened the church's doors to the community for meetings. In 1993, he helped organize a summit meeting of gang leaders from around the nation to sit down and talk. He helped start an organization to unite local congregations to work collectively to solve problems in their communities.

Luther Seminary will award Battle, pastor of Mount Olivet, its annual Race, Church and Change Award today.

In giving him the award, Luther Seminary honors one of its own: Battle received a master's of divinity degree from the school in 1977. "It really surprised me," Battle said. "It let's me know you can make a difference in this world."

According to Rod Maeker, Luther Seminary's director of cross cultural education, the award is given to unsung heroes for faithfulness to a ministry of reconciliation.

"The seminary views the Rev. Battle's exemplary ministry as a wonderful role model for seminary students, parish pastors and community leaders who are committed to serving their community," Maeker said. "He's a classic."

Battle has also worked to improve communication and relations between residents, merchants and organizations in the Frogtown neighborhood. And he is co-founder and co-chairman of the St. Paul Ecumenical Alliance of Congregations, an interdenominational, multiracial, grass-roots organization started in 1990 that brings together about 16 local congregations to address housing, education, crime and employment issues within neighborhoods.

Local ministers applaud Battle's insistence that churches get more involved in improving social, economic and living conditions within the communities they serve.

"He's been consistent in saying that churches need to be more responsive to those who have been left out—the underserved—whatever race," said the Rev. James Erlandson, pastor of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer who also is involved with the St. Paul Ecumenical Alliance of Congregations.

"Primarily, churches serve the middle class," Erlandson said. "If we're going to be consistent with Jesus' message and the prophets' message, we need to serve the poor and those who have been left out of the economic process, so we can be a voice for those folks. He's been reminding us of that."

Battle also is known as an advocate for families, children and education. He recently was involved with the Twin Cities African American Parent Involvement Committee, a local group that organized the African American Parent Involvement Day on Feb. 12. The effort was part of a national push to encourage more black parents to take an active role in their children's education.

Phillip Penn, human resources director for the St. Paul Public Schools, said Battle was an enthusiastic member of that organizing committee, attending all the meetings, and even opening his church for gatherings some Saturday mornings. Battle also was key in alerting other ministers about the project and urging them to spread the word to members of their congregations, Penn said.

"He was just extremely supportive in every way."